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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: Becker et al.

GROUP: 2632

SERIAL NO: 10/012,200

EXAMINER: B. Swarthout

FILED: November 13, 2001

FOR: A MULTIMEDIA UNIT HAVING MULTIPLE
TRANSCIVERS FOR USE IN A VEHICLE

Honorable Commissioner of Patents
and Trademarks
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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Sir:

APPEAL BRIEF

This appeal is in response to the Official Action dated September 11, 2003, which has been made final. A check in the amount of \$330 is enclosed herewith pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.17(c).

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I. REAL PARTY OF INTEREST

The real party of interest is Becker GmbH of Karlsbad, Germany, currently of record as the assignee of the present invention. Becker GmbH is part of Harman International of California.

II. RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

There are no related appeals or interferences.

III. STATUS OF CLAIMS

On December 11, 2003 the appellant appealed from the final rejection of claims 1-14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). These claims, as currently amended in Appendix A to correct a typographical error, are all the remaining claims in this application.

IV. STATUS OF AMENDMENTS

A proposed amendment to claims 1, 11 and 13 is enclosed in herewith in Appendix A to correct a latent typographical error. No other amendments have been filed subsequent to the final rejection.

V. SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

A multimedia system for use in a motor vehicle includes a plurality of multimedia units that are connected in a ring-shaped data bus. At least one of the multimedia units includes at least two transceivers that are controlled by a network controller. Providing a network controller

for a multimedia unit having a *plurality* of transceivers relieves the processors of these units. From the point of view of the network, the transceivers of the multimedia unit no longer look like independent network subscribers. Rather, the network sees a non-intelligent node, which is controlled by an intelligent node.

VI. ISSUES

Whether claims 1-14 are nonobvious over U.S. Patent 6,414,951 to Murakami (hereinafter “Murakami”)

VII. GROUPING OF THE CLAIMS

Since the rejection of all the remaining claims is the same, Appellant believes that all the remaining claims stand or fall together.

VIII. ARGUMENT

Claim 1 recites a multimedia unit for use in a vehicle multimedia system that includes a plurality of multimedia units connected to a ring-shaped bus. The multimedia unit comprises:

“a plurality of transceiver units configured to communicate over the ring-shaped bus, wherein said multimedia unit includes a network controller that controls the communication of said plurality of transceiver units over the ring-shaped bus.”
(emphasis added, cl. 1).

As set forth in claim 1, the multimedia unit includes a *plurality of transceiver units*, and each of the transceiver units is controlled by a network controller. In contrast, Murakami discloses that a single network controller controls a single associated transceiver. For example, FIG. 2 of Murakami illustrates that the node N1 includes only a single transceiver, which includes receiver

11 and transmitter 29. A fair and proper reading of Murakami reveals that this prior art reference neither discloses nor suggests a multimedia unit as recited in claim 1, which includes: (i) a plurality of transceivers and (ii) a network controller, *wherein the network controller controls the communication of the plurality of transceiver units over the ring-shaped bus.*

The Official Action contends “*Murakami discloses a vehicle multimedia system (col. 7, line 3) including plural multimedia units (col. 7, lines 29-36), each multimedia unit comprising plural node, comprising first and second transceiver units 11/29 for receiving incoming signals and outputting signals in the ring network, and transmission means for sending signals to supervisory controller 7 (col. 12, lines 24-38).*” (Official Action, pg. 2). This rejection is premised on an overly broad and incorrect construction of the subject matter disclosed Murakami.

Each node of Murakami (e.g., node N1 as shown in FIGs. 1-2) includes only a single transceiver. Murakami discloses that “11” is a frame reception unit and “29” is a frame transmission unit (see FIG. 2 of Murakami). Units 11 and 29 are not individual transceivers. A transceiver unit includes both a transmitter and a receiver. The rejection set forth in the Official Action is misconstruing the plain and ordinary meaning of the term transceiver, since the Official Action is construing reception unit 11 as a transceiver and transmission unit 29 as a transceiver. A fair and ordinary reading of Murakami reveals that each node (see FIGs. 1-2 of Murakami) includes only one transceiver, and not a plurality of transceivers as recited in claim 1.

Claim 11 recites a motor vehicle multimedia system, which includes:

“a ring-shaped data bus; and
a plurality of multimedia units connected to the ring-shaped bus, at least one of said multimedia units comprises a plurality of transceiver units and a network controller, wherein said multimedia units are configured and arranged to communicate over said ring-shaped bus and said network controller controls the

communication of its associated said plurality of transceiver units over said ring-shaped bus.” (emphasis added, cl. 11).

As set forth above with respect to claim 1, Murakami neither discloses nor suggests a multimedia unit that includes a plurality of transceiver units, wherein each of the plurality of transceiver units communicates over the ring-shaped bus. Murakami is also incapable of rendering claim 11 obvious.

Claim 13 is patentable for at least all the reasons set forth above.

CONCLUSION

For all the foregoing reasons, we submit that the rejection of claim 1-14 is erroneous and reversal thereof is respectfully requested.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this appeal brief, please charge them to our Deposit Account 19-0079. If a fee is required for any extension of time under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should be charged to the above Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patrick O'Shea". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. Below the signature is a horizontal line.

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CLAIMS

1 1.(Currently Amended) A multimedia unit for use in a vehicle multimedia system that
2 includes a plurality of multimedia units connected to a ring-shaped bus, said multimedia unit
3 comprising a plurality of a-transceiver units configured to communicate over the ring-shaped bus,
4 wherein said multimedia unit includes a network controller that controls the communication of
5 said plurality of transceiver units over the ring-shaped bus.

1 2.(Previously Amended) The multimedia unit of claim 1, wherein said plurality of
2 transceivers are configured and arranged to communicate over a ring-shaped Media Oriented
3 Systems Transport bus.

1 3.(Original) The multimedia unit of claim 2, wherein the multimedia unit is configured as a
2 radio receiver.

1 4.(Original) The multimedia unit of claim 2, wherein the multimedia unit is configured as a
2 television set.

1 5.(Original) The multimedia unit of claim 2, wherein the multimedia unit is configured as a
2 CD player.

1 6.(Original) The multimedia unit of claim 2, wherein the multimedia unit is configured as a
2 DVD player.

1 7.(Original) The multimedia unit of claim 2, wherein the multimedia unit is configured as a
2 disk changer.

1 8.(Original) The multimedia unit of claim 2, wherein the multimedia unit is configured as a
2 cassette recorder.

1 9.(Original) The multimedia unit of claim 2, wherein the multimedia unit is configured as a
2 navigation system.

1 10.(Original) The multimedia unit of claim 2, wherein the multimedia unit is configured as a
2 multimedia network operating and control unit.

1 11.(Currently Amended) A motor vehicle multimedia system, comprising:
2 a ring-shaped data bus; and
3 a plurality of multimedia units connected to said ring-shaped bus, at least one of said
4 multimedia units comprises a plurality ~~a-of~~ transceiver units and a network controller, wherein
5 said multimedia units are configured and arranged to communicate over said ring-shaped bus and
6 said network controller controls the communication of its associated said plurality of transceiver
7 units over said ring-shaped bus.

1 12.(Previously Amended) The motor vehicle multimedia system of claim 11, wherein said
2 ring-shaped data bus is configured and arranged as a Media Oriented Systems Transport bus.

1 13.(Currently Amended) A motor vehicle multimedia system, comprising:
2 a data bus; and
3 a plurality of multimedia units each connected to said data bus, and at least one of said
4 multimedia units comprises a plurality ~~a-of~~ transceiver units and a network controller, wherein

5 said multimedia units are configured and arranged to communicate over said shaped bus and said
6 network controller controls the communication of its associated said plurality of transceiver units
7 over said data bus.

1 14.(Previously Added) The motor vehicle multimedia system of claim 13, wherein said
2 data bus is configured and arranged as a Media Oriented Systems Transport bus.